



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Highlights for July 13, 2009

For More Information:

John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

[Web](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

PALEY HELPING REDUCE MUNICIPAL COURT COSTS: Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#), chair of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee, is working with the Franklin County Municipal Court to enhance their specialty docket, which saves city tax dollars and helps change lives. The Municipal Court currently operates one specialty docket to process cases for defendants who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. The program has realized substantial savings by providing an alternative to incarceration through an intensive, court-supervised environment that addresses criminal activity and helps offenders become productive members of society. Councilmember Paley's sponsorship of *ordinance 0934-2009* will help establish a new sub-fund to expand the specialty docket into two programs: the Changing Actions to Change Habits Program (CATCH) and the Addiction Program Specialty Docket (APSD). The CATCH Program is designed for those with multiple solicitation arrests and the APSD will address individuals with alcohol and/or chemical dependencies. Both will require limited court involvement in treatment planning and compliance, which should result in more effective utilization of court resources.

COUNCIL HELPING KICK-OFF "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT": On Saturday, July 18 members of City Council will join community leaders in taking a stand against crime as they celebrate the *National Night Out Kick-Off* at Krumm Park. Councilmember [Andrew J. Ginther](#), chair of the Public Safety Committee, will lead the annual event designed to bring together neighborhood safety leaders and promote participation in National Night Out (NNO). The kick-off event will be held at Krumm Park Recreation Center, which was recently re-opened after being closed due to city budget constraints through the initiative of Recreation & Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) and the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation. The Blue Jackets Foundation will join Lowe's and national NNO sponsor, Target Inc., in presenting the event. NNO empowers the community by sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The National Night Out Kick-Off will take place Saturday, July 18th at Krumm Park (854 Alton Ave.) from 11 am to 5pm

National Night Out will take place Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM

MILLER IMPLEMENTING WEB-BASED TRAINING: As chair of the Administration Committee, Councilmember [A. Troy Miller](#) continues to advocate the use of technology to increase government efficiency. *Ordinance 0916-2009*, sponsored by Miller, will authorize a contract for software, training, and maintenance associated with the Columbus Human Resource Information System project. This software will incorporate web-based training to assist the city's human resources professionals with operational responsibilities such as payroll and employee benefits.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM: Columbus is seeking additional federal funding through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to assist in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0093-2009*, authorizing the city to apply for and accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2. If approved, the NSP2 grant funds will be used to build a stronger housing real-estate market in weak-market areas of Columbus and Franklin County through acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation and redevelopment of foreclosed, abandoned and vacant properties.

The Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee will meet on Wednesday July 15, 2009 to discuss pending legislation. The meeting will be held in City Council Chambers, and will begin at 5:30 pm.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT: Development Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring legislation to continue revitalization efforts in the Weinland Park neighborhood. *Ordinance 0995-2009* authorizes the city to submit cleanup plans for the former 3M site and to enter into an agreement of understanding with Wagenbrenner Development, Inc. in conjunction with a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Round 7 grant application of up to \$3 million. The site was used for metal finishing operations from 1920 until closing in 2000. It has remained vacant since then and has been a blighting influence for Weinland Park. Wagenbrenner Development recently acquired the site with plans to invest approximately \$24 million for environmental remediation and the construction of approximately 110 residential units with street level commercial space.

CRAIG ENSURING PROGRESSION OF PARSONS/LIVINGSTON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Public Service & Transportation Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring legislation to help ensure timely completion of the Parsons/Livingston Improvement Project. During the plan development phase of the project, a number of stone, block, and railroad tie retaining walls that encroached into the public right-of-way were discovered. *Ordinance 0969-2009* will authorize the city to grant easements for existing retaining walls within the project corridor that encroach into the public right-of-way.

SUPPORTING GOWDY FIELD REDEVELOPMENT: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring legislation that continues the city's efforts to reinvent Gowdy Field, turning the former landfill along Olentangy River Road into a hub of job creation. *Ordinance 0990-2009* will permit the construction of a common driveway to provide sufficient ingress and egress for both the Gowdy North Project and the remainder of the city's property at the site. Once completed, the private sector development will include a new 100,000 – 120,000 square-foot commercial office building intended to house over 300 new jobs.